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be furnished. The stock of duplicates belonging to the Department of Agriculture has during the past winter been labeled and arranged in botanical order, and now represents nearly 1,000 genera, being especially full in grasses and plants of the southwest.

Many names are being received of persons desiring to join an exchange. To these and others the rules will be sent when the exchange is organized. Persons interested are requested to correspond with the chairman of the committee, Dr. George Vasey, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. A. A. CROZIER.

Washington, D. C.

Alexipharmics.

When reading the article on alexipharmics, or snake-bite antidotes, in the recent number of the *Annals of Botany*, I felt a little surprise at the small number of plants mentioned. I had a vague notion that the list of American species of reputed potency might be increased. This led me to make out, as near as I could recall them, a list of such plants as had some reference to snakes in their names. I am surprised to find in my private library (I have not consulted the large college collection) how little reference there is to the origin of the names. In many cases I am in doubt whether the title has reference to medicinal qualities or external resemblances. Even Darlington and Wood, usually rather expansive on such matters, are singularly silent. Down south, where, it is said, the natives hunt all day for a snake in order to take the remedial tincture there may be more knowledge on the subject. Here is the list for what it is worth:

Actæa spicata, both varieties, snake-root; Eryngium yuccæfolium, rattlesnake master; Sanicula Canadensis, black snakeroot; Eupatorium ageratoides, white snakeroot; Liatris, various species, button snakeroot; Hieracium venosum, rattlesnake-weed; Asarum Canadense, Canada snakeroot; Aristolochia serpentaria, Virginia snakeroot; Goodyera, two species, rattlesnake-plantain; Glyceria Canadensis, rattlesnake-grass; Botrychium Virginicum, rattlesnake-fern.

In Lindley's Medical Botany (1838) the name "rattlesnake-master" is applied to Liatris squarrosa, with the note that it is so called in the southern part of America, and "in case of being bitten by this animal (the rattlesnake) they bruise the roots and apply them to the wound, while at the same time the patient drinks a decoction of it in milk." He speaks of three species of Mikania so employed, but ours is not among them. Has it value?

In regard to Aristolochia serpentaria, Flückiger and Hanbury say, "Its ancient reputation for the cure of snake-bites is now disregarded."

I think it would be interesting to more than myself if some competent person would give us an authentic list of all reputed alexipharmics, and also what is known of the origin of such ophidian names as the above.

Brown University, Providence, R. I. W. WHITMAN BAILEY.

Strawberry poisoning.

In response to my note upon this subject in the January GAZETTE, I have received a communication from Dr. C. F. Millspaugh, of Waverly, N. Y., calling my attention to a number of cases similar to those recorded by myself, which had already been observed and published. The earliest of these cases is attributed to Linnæus, 1757, who mentions in an essay upon the strawberry the poisonous effects of the fruit, and states the chief symptom to be an eruption of the skin. Four other cases of the kind are recorded by later European writers. In all the common symptom is an eruption of the skin with a greater or less swelling of the body; but the cases differ quite materially in other respects, especially as regards the severity of the attack and the suffering of the patient. All of these foreign cases, I believe, are recorded in Allen's Encyclopedia of Pure Materia Medica. On this side of the Atlantic the only case recorded previous to those mentioned by myself, so far as I know, is a very interesting one which came under Dr. Millspaugh's personal observation in his own practice, and is noted in Millspaugh's American Medicinal Plants, Fascicle III, p. 55.

One very important difference between the six cases here alluded to and those mentioned by myself in the January GAZETTE is worthy of special note, namely, that whereas in the former, so far as stated, the poisoning always resulted from eating the fruit, in the latter the mere inhalation of the odor of the ripe fruit might, and in many instances did, cause the poisoning, without tasting or even seeing the fruit itself.

Cornell University. A. N. PRENTISS.

In the BOTANICAL GAZETTE of January, 1888, Prof. A. N. Prentiss, of Cornell University, refers to two interesting cases of strawberry poisoning, and states that they are the only instances of which he has ever known.

Since this particular idiosyncrasy is so rare, I will furnish additional testimony in regard to a cousin of mine, formerly resident in Glens Falls, N. Y., now deceased. She had never manifested fondness for strawberries, but when about four years of age she was urged to eat some, and soon after became violently ill, the illness assuming the form of deathly stupor. Two physicians were hastily summoned, who concurred in pronouncing it a case of vegetable poison. One of them went out into the garden to find what there was to tempt the child, and, returning, said he saw nothing there but strawberries which would produce such results, and they were poisonous to his wife. The other physician said the symptoms were those described in medical books as resultant from eating that fruit, but he had never met with a case in his practice before. The conclusion was reached that the child was the victim of the strawberries of which she had been urged to partake. She naturally refrained from their use afterward, but I remember her mention of a brief but severe sickness once afterward from eating some cream which had been thrown over strawberries. Her sister informs me that later in life she would occasionally taste them without experiencing ill effects. JULIA S. HOAG.

Albany, N. Y.

CURRENT LITERATURE.

A manual of the British Discomycetes.[1]

This is the title of a book of over 400 pages, giving descriptions, synonyms and bibliographic and exsiccatæ references for all the fungi be-

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[1] PHILLIPS, WILLIAM.—A manual of the British Discomycetes. International Scientific Series, Vol. LXI. 410 pp., 12 plates, 8 vo.